

# Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 13th December SBC News

The online service "The Saviour King"

In the Chapel at 4pm in the Candlelight Service



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington 01692 582731 Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno 07733837687 Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128  
Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## Welcome to this Sunday's Online Service

Pat is leading and Ron is preaching - continuing the series: "The King of Christmas" (Matthew 1 & 2) with Matthew 1:18f "The Saviour King"

You can follow the service on the SBC website on Sunday  
[www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) Then click on the icon pictured left.



### Ron's Reads

Lk 1:39f, 1 Sam 25:25, 1 Sam 7:14

### For Your Prayers

Please pray for the family and friends of Linda Turner who was the minister at Martham and EBA Moderator who recently passed away.  
Pray also for those preparing the SBC Candlelight and Christmas services in these difficult times. Pray that our government and the EU can find a way forward to break the Brexit impasse.

Remember those undergoing hospital treatment or currently waiting for appointments.

Also remember the million or so families in the UK who will be relying on food bank parcels this Christmas.

Please pray for those at the Lighthouse Church Durban who share our online services and the bulletin as South Africa is experiencing a second Covid surge. Please also pray that as vaccines are produced they will be shared throughout the world so those living in poverty will also gain immunity and not just those in affluent countries.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Peter Bane.**

### Virtual Prayer Room

On Saturday 5th Geoff posted "Update on our neighbour Derrick. Thanks for your prayers he was due to come home early next week but has contracted Covid so his stay is extended/ Pray he recovers quickly from it."

### Prayers in a time of Coronavirus by Nick Fawcett

Prayer responses to the continuing coronavirus crisis, this one inspired by the ongoing need for social distancing, which remains important in controlling the spread of the disease. Read more from Nick Fawcett at <https://nickfawcett.uk/>

As I keep my distance, Lord, from others,  
teach me to respect them,  
to value them,  
to acknowledge them,  
to care about them.  
Though I must keep apart,  
for their sake as much as mine,  
remind me that we belong together,  
bound by our common humanity,  
by your love for all.  
And though I must keep many still at  
arm's length,  
may that only be in body and not in  
spirit,

my concern for them not being diminished but enlarged –  
my love,  
my compassion,  
my desire to reach out and respond remaining as real as ever,  
and finding new ways in which it can be expressed.  
Keep us safe, Lord,  
keep us well,  
keep us strong,  
and though for now we must stay apart,  
keep us also together.  
Amen.

This prayer takes as its starting point the number of times we wash our hands.

As I wash my hands, Lord,  
cleansing my body from infection,  
cleansing my mind from unworthy thoughts,  
cleansing my heart from evil,  
cleansing my spirit from what keeps me from you,  
cleansing my being from what devalues

me as a person,  
cleansing my life of all that degrades and destroys.  
In your mercy, Lord,  
wash me,  
and make me truly clean.  
Amen.

If you are reading this newsletter as a PDF you can click on the red highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.

Don't forget you can also follow what's happening at SBC on twitter <https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch> and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist](http://www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist)

### FOOD BANK & PERSONAL PRAYER

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and personal prayer. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met. The [Food Bank](#) is open on Fridays in the Stables from 1.15 to 3.00pm. If you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Citizens Advice Service 0344 411 1444, the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at [minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk).

### Can You Help the Food Bank?

The Food Bank is asking for the following to help their clients to have some Christmas goodies.  
Christmas Puddings (no alcohol)  
Christmas Cake (no alcohol)  
Mince Pies (no alcohol)  
Tinned Salmon  
Tinned Potatoes  
Christmas Crackers  
Boxes of Biscuits  
Crisps, Nuts, etc.  
Chocolate Treats  
Sponge Puddings  
Custard  
Fruit Juice  
Squash  
Toilet Rolls.

### This Week

**Monday 14th 7.00pm**

Zoom Deacons Meeting

**Wednesday 16th 7.00pm**

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link



## Candlelight Services December 13th and 20th Starting at 4.00pm

There are still some spaces left for the Candlelight services on Sunday 13th, but Diana will need to hear from you by 5.00pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Contact her on - 07951949128 you can also text or WhatsApp the same number or email [secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk).

At the moment there are spaces for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> to book again contact Diana.

These services will be relayed to the car park we can therefore offer a "drive in option" so you could sit in your car and sing.

When booking your place, you will need to tell Diana which option you are booking. As the service is being relayed to speakers in the car park you could socially distance and stand on the pavement to listen to the carols.

### Celebrate Christmas Day Morning at 10 am

This will be a short service to celebrate the Saviour's birth.

### Sunday 3rd January. Celebrate the New Year with us - Family Service 10.45am

Please book with Diana Gordon for any of these services. Please don't book a slot or attend if you have any Covid symptoms.

## Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at Luke 1: 68-79 Do we always help shine Jesus's light or do we sometimes hide it? If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Maureen Booth, who celebrates an "0" Birthday on 15th December. May the Lord Bless you and keep you, and make His face to shine upon you". Plus Happy Birthday to anyone else celebrating a birthday this month.

## Food for the young people's centre in Stalham

We hope to deliver a Christmas hamper to Empanda in Stalham which gives housing related support to young people. If anyone wishes to donate gifts or home baked items please drop them round to Jan and Henry who will pass them on with greetings from the church, thank you.

## Weekly Prayer Focus: 13th December 2020 Church Langley Church

Church Langley is a successful Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and URC ecumenical partnership. It is in the new development on the outskirts of Harlow. When you are driving down the M11 and you see the water tower, just before or after junction 7, depending which way you are going, that is in Church Langley.

There is an Anglican vacancy at the moment. There is usually a half-time Anglican vicar, but the previous one moved on just as lockdown began. The Baptist contingent is Revd Alison Taylor, also minister at Potter Street Baptist Church Harlow, about one mile away from the Church Langley church.

In normal times the church celebrates on a Sunday by adopting the tradition of whoever is leading, so you will hear conversations such as 'Is it Anglican Communion or Baptist today?' All sit very comfortably alongside one another and the church is one body and celebrates its unity and diversity. There is a **weekly coffee stop run in normal times**. The church has run a couple of successful Alpha courses, has a well-attended Messy church which of course has all had to be stopped over recent months. Alison says: 'We were going to have our first service in person on 8th November, but unfortunately Boris had other ideas.'

Since lockdown, the church has had a monthly online service, but also has weekly input from Potter Street Baptist and the local Methodists produce a worship sheet. Over lockdown there have been weekly prayer meetings, Bible discussion, a home group meeting, and Baptist communion is shared once a fortnight, all online.

### Prayer points:

1. Please pray for the church moving forward regarding the Anglican vacancy, the powers that be don't have a lot of understanding of the unique nature of Church Langley Church and are trying to make us fit into the structures that be, not comfortably always.
2. Please pray for Revd Alison Taylor and the Eldership as they negotiate this

## Quotes of the Week

### Only in the birth and death of Jesus can we be born again.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.' God had mercy upon us because he saw us leading a life without hope. And therefore by a new birth he radically changed our world for us so as to make it a world of hope. The peculiar way in which the apostle expresses this fact ought to be carefully noted. He might have said, 'God gave us a new hope,' or, 'God brought us into a new hope.' But what he says is, 'God begat us again unto a living hope.' Undoubtedly this representation is chosen in order to emphasize the comprehensiveness and persuasiveness of the hope which the Christian obtains. It means a change as great as the crisis of birth, a transition from not being to living, when the hope of the gospel breaks upon our vision. The change is not partial. It does not affect our life in merely one or the other of its aspects. It revolutionizes our whole life at every point. What this means is a total regeneration of our consciousness, a regeneration of our way of thinking, a reversal of our outlook upon things in their entirety."

— **Geerhardus Vos**, [Grace and Glory](#)  
(To **beget** means to generate something, usually children.)

"Every 'Born again' Christian is already called to be a Minister of God (By Commission, Matthew 28:19) and a Royal Priest (By Calling, 1 Peter 2:9).

The only thing left now for us Christians to achieve in this small life is,

To become A Compassionate individual (1 Peter 3:8),  
An Effective Disciple (John 8:31,32) and  
A Better Christian (Philippians 1:9-11)."

— **Santosh Thankachan**

"A transformed life is the greatest of all miracles. Every time a person is "born again" by repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, the miracle of regeneration is performed."

— **Billy Graham**, [Billy Graham in Quotes](#)

"As a newborn baby breathes and cries, so the signs of life in a newborn Christian are faith and repentance, inhaling the love of God and exhaling an initial cry of distress. And at that point what God provides, exactly as for a newborn infant, is the comfort, protection, and nurturing promise of a mother.

"If God is our father, the church is our mother." The words are those of the Swiss Reformer John Calvin ... it is as impossible, unnecessary, and undesirable to be a Christian all by yourself as it is to be a newborn baby all by yourself."

— **N.T. Wright**



# BMS CHRISTMAS 2020 PRAYER CAMPAIGN

## MAKE JESUS KNOWN IN ASIA THIS CHRISTMAS

In 2020, the question left weighing on millions of hearts has been, 'Where is the hope in all of this?' This Christmas, BMS World Mission partners across Asia are coming together to share the answer – the wonderful hope they have in the good news of Jesus Christ.

This December, you're invited to be part of a series of joy-filled outreach events taking place across Asia. A network of passionate believers from India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Cambodia is coming together with the collective vision to reach as many people as is possible with a Christ-centred message of hope. And with plans for a series of Covid-secure festivities, celebrations and outreach events throughout December well underway, the only thing missing is you!

The BMS Christmas prayer campaign 2020 invites you to make Jesus known to people across Asia by upholding and supporting the plans of our partners in dedicated prayer. Our faithful partners (who we'll introduce you to below!) know they fall at the first hurdle if they don't seek God's guidance for the month ahead. So, please join them and Christians across the UK, praying for God to shine his light at the end of a dark year. Please pray for questioning hearts to receive gladly the message of a God who reaches out and beckons them into a relationship with him this Christmas.

How you can be involved in sharing the good news in Asia this Christmas

Set aside five minutes every day for the next four weeks to pray for one of the amazing partners below.

Pick one of the upcoming events described below and pray it would be fruitful, bringing the plans and people involved in them before God.

Share the BMS Christmas prayer campaign with your fellowship or on your social media accounts. Perhaps you could choose one of the partners to be your church's special prayer focus?

Follow BMS World Mission on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to hear updates, and stay tuned as we hope to share the fruit of this inspiring Christmas outreach with you in 2021.

## **BENJAMIN FRANCIS, BMS TEAM LEADER FOR INDIA, WORKING WITH BMS' PARTNER BIG LIFE**

### **In Ben's words:**

"I don't have to tell you what kind of depression people have been in this year. Whether people have been affected by Covid-19 or not, there is another virus which is going round, which is fear. Only faith can cancel fear. And faith, which is the hope of eternity, is the message people long to hear.

People in India are thinking, 'If I go out, I may contract Coronavirus. But if I stay in my house, I'll definitely die of hunger.' They want to know, what is the hope in all of this? And this Christmas, all our outreach programmes are focused on that: Christ in me, the hope of eternity."

### **PLANS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN INDIA**

Ben's team are planning hundreds of small events, starting

from 1 December and led by fellowships of around 10 to 15 people in a socially distanced manner.

The events will include cultural presentations, dancing and singing. "The people we're reaching out to have never experienced things like this: re-enactments of the Nativity, singing Christmas songs, seeing children getting involved – in the villages it's a huge thing," says Ben.

Christmas cake and tea will be shared, drawing people into fellowship and community. Ben hopes the generosity people see in his team will reflect the generosity and kindness of God. Tracts and Bibles will also be distributed to those who have questions about the meaning of Christmas.

Last year, Ben saw an amazing 600 new small fellowships starting because of similar Christmas outreach events.

### **BEN'S PRAYER POINTS:**

Pray for the safety of our team, because there has been some persecution in the villages. Pray also for safety for me, travelling to so many different places.

Please pray that the Bibles my team give out would be joyfully received. We hope to give out about 5,000 Bibles just in West Bengal to people who are asking questions.

We'd love to see baptisms coming out of these events, so please pray for that.

Please pray for safety for all involved as we follow government Covid-19 guidelines.

We plan to reach 50 to 60 villages, so please pray for a huge harvest!

## **REV ASHIM BAROI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF LONG- STANDING BMS PARTNER, THE BANGLADESH BAPTIST CHURCH SANGHA (BBCS)**

### **In Rev Ashim's words:**

"We are using this Christmas project to bring glad tidings to people in the Tea Garden areas and to people in the hill tribes.

During our Christmas programme, we will teach them Christmas songs and explain to them how God loves us and has come to be with us.

Some of the people live in very sad conditions, now we have opportunity to make them glad. We will let them know about Emmanuel – God with us. Many have emotional pain and fear because of the Covid-19 situation. We want to bring them hope and love in the name of Jesus Christ."

### **PLANS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN BANGLADESH**

Most of the people Ashim's team hope to reach are from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds, or follow different tribal belief systems. The majority of them have never heard the gospel of Jesus. In the next five years, BBCS hopes to plant 20 new churches and invite many thousands of people into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The team want to share the story of Jesus' nativity in 50 villages. This 'birthday' celebration, complete with songs and gifts, will also give the chance for believers from Muslim and Hindu backgrounds to share their testimonies.

"We will bring them food and soft drinks," adds Ashim. "We will distribute gospel tracts, and after the Christmas programme we will do medical camps there later in the year".

### **ASHIM'S PRAYER POINTS:**

Please pray for us that people will open their hearts to the

Christmas message.

Pray that they would be encouraged by the gifts that we bring and find hope to believe that all is not lost.

Pray for the safety and sensitivity of BBCS workers who will travel to these villages.

Pray that many would believe and be baptised as witnesses in the communities.

[Download Ashim's prayer points](#)

## REV JLALDUHA LALDUHAWMA, MISSION WORKER WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF MIZORAM (BCM) TO CAMBODIA

**In Rev Jlalduha's words:**

"The Christmas season is one of the best times for doing evangelism in Cambodia. People are aware of Christmas as one of the important festivals of Christianity, without knowing the reality about Christmas and its background.

Taking advantage of this special occasion, we plan to gather the parents and friends of local students (both Christians and non-Christians), providing lunch or dinner with a Christmas gift and an invite to a proper worship service or fellowship. Here, we'll tell the living story of Christmas. Besides this, we'll have a Christmas outreach ministry to the village."

### PLANS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN CAMBODIA

The team at Horaios Baptist Church will share the message of Christmas through a sermon, drama, a dance group and the singing and teaching of Christian songs.

There will also be a charitable Christmas gift of food, cloths and other items to rural villages where there aren't yet any Christian believers. The area has been specially chosen as one where there is no Christian presence. Jlalduha's team would love to build bridges, fellowship and community there, paving the way for more outreach opportunities in 2021.

[Download Jlalduha's prayer points](#)

### JLALDUHA'S PRAYER POINTS:

Please pray that the parents of the students who become Christians will support them.

As many Cambodians enjoy the Christmas celebrations, pray that their hearts and minds would be open to understand that God has come to give us eternal life through Christ Jesus.

Pray for our students who will share their testimonies and for those who will preach, that God would give them boldness and powerful words that will win people to Christ.

Pray that after the Christmas programme many people would want to know more about Jesus.

## MR PRATEEP DEE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE THAI KAREN BAPTIST CHURCH (TKBC)

**In Prateep's words:**

"It is a traditional event for us in December to go preaching the gospel to many unreached fields. Yearly, many of our local churches and associations and TKBC departments reach out to the working fields and unreached marginalised areas, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Why? Because Thailand needs the gospel. Only one per cent of the Thai population is Christian, and that's counting all denominations of Christianity and Roman Catholicism. Though the majority of Thais are Buddhists, Thai people hunger for peace and salvation."



### PLANS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN THAILAND

"The events we organise provide the opportunity for the community to come together," explains Prateep. "This has been an extremely difficult year for many people. This may be one of the only occasions where they can relax, laugh, and have some food and fellowship. We will provide cultural dances and Christmas songs in our native language. There will be a short drama to demonstrate God's love for people."

Prateep believes this will be the first time some of the people in surrounding areas hear the name of Jesus. The planned events will give people the opportunity to ask questions, and those who believe the chance to be baptised. It's hoped that these new believers could become the nucleus of a church plant.

[PRAYING FOR THIS? CLICK HERE!](#)

### PRATEEP'S PRAYER POINTS:

Please pray that hearts would be opened to believe in the name of Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us the right words to speak.

The journey into some of the places, especially into the hill tribes, is long and deep. Please pray for the protection of the team and for strength for the journey.

Please pray that people will understand the meaning of Christmas and their hearts would be filled with the joy of Jesus.

Pray that after the events those who believe would continue to hold onto Jesus as their Lord.

May people feel like they can lay aside futile rituals and experience the grace of God that begins with a loving relationship with Jesus.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)